

displayed itself with wonderful brilliancy.
According to the Marquis of Londonderry: —

" Napoleon, after the battles of Brienne and La Rothiere, displayed, by his masterly movements with an inferior against *two* superior armies, and by braving his accumulated difficulties, that undoubted science in war which his bitterest enemies must accord to his genius. In proportion as his embarrassments increased he seemed to rise superior as an individual. During his adverse fortune on the Elbe he appeared fluctuating and irresolute, and his lengthened stay in imtenable and disadvantageous positions was the cause of his fatal overthrow at Leipsic and of subsequent misfortunes. But now he appeared once more to have burst forth with all his talent and all his energies and mental resources."¹

At the battle of La Rothiere Napoleon exhibited great personal courage, and Lord Londonderry remarks: —

"Bonaparte was seen to encourage his troops and expose his person fearlessly during the combat, and Marshal Blucher's movement of his cavalry, which he himself led on, was spoken of in the highest terms. Napoleon, who at this period scarcely acted in any instance on common military calculation, drew up his army on the 1st of February in two lines on the great plain before La Rothiere, occupying the villages, and neglecting much stronger ground in his rear about Brienne, evidently showing that he meant to play a desperate game. He led on *la jeune garde* in person against Marshal Blucher's army, to wrest the village of La Rothiere from the gallant corps of Sacken; but three repeated efforts were ineffectual. All agreed that the enemy fought with great intrepidity. Bonaparte seemed to have set his political existence on a die, as he exposed himself everywhere: his horse was shot under him, and he had the mortification of witnessing the capture of a battery in charge of *la jeune garde*. Had Marshal Blucher not previously immortalized himself this day would have crowned him in the annals of fame, for whatever were the well-grounded apprehensions entertained by many for the result of the Prince of Wirtemberg's attack on the right, the Marshal dauntlessly effected those combinations upon which the result of the day depended. The Russian artillery were spoken of in the highest terms: the ground was covered with snow, and so deep that they were obliged to leave one-half of their guns in the rear. Yet by harnessing double teams to the other half they contrived to bring those forward and get a sufficient number into action. The Allies brought about 70,000 or 80,000 men into this battle; the other corps of the army were not yet in line: the French were supposed to have about the same strength. The enemy's last attack on the village of La Rothiere was at two o'clock on the morning of the 2d, immediately after which they commenced their retreat. Passing the Aube river, they took up a very strong rear-guard position in the neighborhood of Lesmont."

¹ See Narrative of the War in Germany and France in 1813 and 1814.